

RESTRICTED HANDLING MESSAGES MUST BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO SPECIAL SIGNAL CENTER.

Do NOT EXCEED 69 TYPEWRITTEN CHARACTERS PER LINE. APPROVED FOR RELEASE 2006/01/03 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600110008-2

ORIG: GACarver, Jr.
UNIT: DCI/SAVA

RESTRICTED HANDLING

25X1
DATE: 11 JUN 71

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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11 22 22Z JUN 71

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TO

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1. HAVE JUST HAD HELPFUL DISCUSSION OF CAMBODIAN

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SITUATION WITH [] WHICH CONTRIBUTED A COUNTERPOINT TO
RECENT HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS ON CAMBODIA THAT [] AND I HAVE
ATTENDED. LATTER USED AS POINT OF DEPARTURE RECENT THREE-
MAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT STUDY AND AMBASSADOR SWANK'S
COMMENTS THEREON (READ REBUTTAL THERETO) TRANSMITTED AS
TOP SECRET PHNOM PENH EXDIS EMBTEL ²⁷¹⁹ ~~2981~~, 6 JUNE 71.

25X1

2. FROM ABOVE NOTED MEETINGS, IT IS CLEAR THAT STATE AND

DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS HERE ARE (TO BE CHARITABLE) SOMEWHAT
CONFUSED REGARDING WHAT WHITE HOUSE SEES AS CENTRAL ELEMENTS
OF CAMBODIAN PROBLEM. FROM [] REMARKS, IT IS EQUALLY
APPARENT THAT SOME OF THIS CONFUSION EXTENDS TO THE EMP ASSY
AND US MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE FIELD. WE HAVE NO

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FORM 4-70

1. RESTRICTED HANDLING MESSAGES MUST BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO SPECIAL SIGNAL CENTER.

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TO

JURISDICTION OVER THE APPROACH OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, BUT THIS CABLE IS BEING SENT TO ENSURE THAT WITHIN

25X1 AT LEAST, WE ARE ALL OPERATING ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH.

3. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON CAMBODIA IS BASIC AND UNCOMPLICATED. HE DOES NOT WANT CAMBODIA LOST. IN OTHER WORDS, HE DOES NOT WANT PHNOM PENH TO FALL, NOR DOES HE WANT TO SEE THE PRESENT RKG TOPPLED AND REPLACED BY A REGIME UNDER HANOI'S EFFECTIVE CONTROL. ANY FURTHER PROGRESS THAT CAN BE MADE WILL BE A WELCOME FRINGE BENEFIT, BUT THE ESSENCE OF THE US GOVERNMENT'S POSITION (AS WE SEE IT) LIES IN THE PREVENTION OF WHAT COULD BE PUBLICLY DEPICTED AS A QUOTE LOSS UNQUOTE OF CAMBODIA.

4. IN A SLIGHTLY BROADER CONTEXT, NEITHER THE PRESIDENT NOR HIS SENIOR WHITE HOUSE ADVISORS WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED

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OVER THE NEXT EIGHTEEN-ODD MONTHS BY CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENTS. ERGO, THEY DO NOT WISH TO SEE THE COMMUNISTS SCORE HEADLINE-GRABBING SUCCESSES IN CAMBODIA ITSELF. NOR DO THEY WISH TO SEE THE COMMUNISTS MAKE PROGRESS IN CAMBODIA (E.G., DE FACTO RESTORATION OF MAJOR BASE AREAS ASTRIDE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER) OF A KIND WHICH MAY NOT BE INTRINSICALLY SPECTACULAR BUT NONETHELESS SETS THE ENEMY UP FOR THE REGISTERING OF HEADLINE-GRABBING ATTAINMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

3
5. NOTE THAT WHEN THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM IS LOOKED AT OR DEFINED IN THE ABOVE MANNER (AND WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE WAY THE WHITE HOUSE REGARDS IT), ISSUES SUCH AS HIGH-PROFILE VERSUS LOW PROFILE OR THE NUMBER OF IN-COUNTRY MEDT SLOTS (20, 50, 93) BECOME DISTINCTLY DERIVATIVE OR SECONDARY. THE LATTER, HOWEVER, ARE THE KINDS OF ISSUES ON WHICH THE ATTENTION OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN STATE AND DEFENSE SEEM TO BE FOCUSED.

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6. CLEARLY THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE US PROFILE IN CAMBODIA AS LOW AS FEASIBLE AND HOLD TO AN ESSENTIAL MINIMUM ANY INVESTMENT OF US ASSETS, MANPOWER OR PRESTIGE REQUIRED TO KEEP THE RKG AFLOAT AND PHNOM PENH IN FRIENDLY HANDS. EQUALLY CLEARLY -- FROM BOTH GENERAL TENOR OR RECENT EVENTS AND EMBASSY [REDACTED] REPORTING THEREON AND FROM [REDACTED] EXPLICIT COMMENTS -- ACHIEVEMENT OF EVEN THE MODEST GOALS OF KEEPING [REDACTED] IN THE FIELD AS A CREDIBLE FORCE OF SOME EFFECT AND KEEPING PHNOM PENH OUT OF ENEMY HANDS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY GOING TO REQUIRE A HIGHER LEVEL OF US AID (PARTICULARLY MILITARY AND ADVISORY AID) AND A SOMEWHAT GREATER US PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY THAN IS ENCOMPASSED IN THE CURRENT STATUS QUO. PRECISELY WHAT MIX AND LEVELS OF AID/PRESENCE ARE MINIMALLY ESSENTIAL IS THE SUBJECT OF ACTIVE HIGH LEVEL DEBATE IN WASHINGTON.

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FORM 3205

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7. WE WILL TRY TO KEEP OUR ATTENTION AND EFFORTS ADDRESSED TO THE REAL ISSUES HERE INVOLVED AND NATURALLY WANT TO BE SURE THAT YOU DO THE SAME -- WHETHER OR NOT OUR DEFENSE AND STATE COLLEAGUES LOSE THEMSELVES IN A MORASS OF HOTLY DEBATED BUT LOGICALLY SUBORDINATE (AND IN SOME CASES, IRRELEVANT) ISSUES. HENCE THIS CABLE, WHICH IS INTENDED FOR YOUR PRIVATE USE, GUIDANCE AND BACKGROUND ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH ANY [REDACTED] COLLEAGUES IN THE MISSION.

25X1

END OF MESSAGE

C/FE [REDACTED] (in draft)

DDP

Richard Helms

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

George A. Carver, Jr.
SAVA

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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